



United States Department of the Interior



BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
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Greetings Educators! The Missouri Breaks Interpretive Center interprets the tremendous natural and cultural history of the Upper Missouri River Breaks National Monument and the Upper Missouri National Wild and Scenic River. We have many wonderful hands-on displays in the center and many programs that include thought provoking activities for students. Below are programs the center offers. These programs are arranged in possibilities for grade levels the programs support.

Science Programs

Elementary Science:

Programs for Kindergarten to 5th grade

- **“A Tree; The Inside Story”**- Students will create and take home their own tree suit while learning all the requirements needed to live life as a tree. (ONE HOUR PROGRAM)
- **“Jell-O Geology”** – This program teaches younger grades about the basic geologic principles such as layers, erosion, and discovering fossils. Due to the extended preparation time and requirement of resources for this program, we suggest this for smaller groups and require extended notice of at least 2 weeks to present this program. (ONE HOUR PROGRAM)
- **Many of the secondary education programs below can also be presented with elementary groups with extended notice so we can adapt the program for the age group.**

Secondary Science:

Education Biology/Life Science (7th Grade / HS Biology):

- **“It’s All in Your Head”** – The focus of this program is on mammals found within the Monument and Montana. This demonstration in comparative anatomy and specialization among the mammals adds new meaning to the phrase “it’s all in your head!” (ONE HOUR PROGRAM)
- **“Investigating Our Watery World”** – This program examines macro invertebrates that live in the rivers around us. Students learn about sampling methods and learn to identify different invertebrates sampled. Students explore these species further to learn how they help determine water quality. Some chemical water quality testing can also be demonstrated. (ONE HOUR PROGRAM)

Earth Science (6th and 7th grade)

- **“Reading the Shape of the Monument”** – In this age of reliance on modern technology for finding our way with GPS units or getting rescued with satellite phones, the skills of reading, using and understanding topographic (topo) maps is falling by the wayside. This program will teach the basics behind topo maps and introduce your students to some activities that will build their skills with maps. (ONE AND-A-HALF HOUR PROGRAM).

Indian Education for All / Social Studies

- **“Must Cultures Collide?”** – This program offers an in-depth look at the Nez Perce War of 1877 and the consequences to the Tribe as a result of their delays while crossing the Missouri River at Cow Island. Commonalities and differences between our cultures are revealed through this thought provoking program. (Grades 6-8, Indian Education for All) (TWO HOUR PROGRAM)
- **“Which Way Did They Go?”** Different mapping styles have been used throughout history. Students will learn about these styles and have an opportunity to develop their own maps, after which they will follow the maps of their counterpart groups, looking for hidden treasure at the destination. (GRADES 4-7) (1.5 HOUR PROGRAM)
- **“Bullwhacker Freight Company”** – The program focuses on the historical transportation methods of steam boating and freighting. Students will assemble wagon payloads and determine weight capacity while considering demands of frontier towns and gold camps. They will learn if their shipments were “make or break” in the economies of the later 1800’s. (GRADES 4-6) (1.5 HOUR PROGRAM)

Varied Curriculum: The programs below are offered in a station format to accommodate larger groups. Whole groups will be broken down into groups of approximately 10 students and will rotate through the selected programs. Depending on group size, you may select from the following programs (aprox. 30 minutes per station):

- **“Who Goes There?”** – Students will learn about different animals and their tracks then cast their own animal tracks to take home. (3-7)
- **“Adaptation Artistry”** – Students will learn about different bird adaptations and how their bodies and skulls are designed to help them make a living. Students will design a bird of their own. (K-12)
- **“Macroinvertebrate Mayhem”** – Students will examine different macro invertebrates living in the water. They will learn how stressors in the water can change invertebrate populations. (4-HS)
- **“Miss Mae Flannagan”** – Miss Flannagan appears in 1800’s dress and regales your students with her terrifying tale from a trip aboard the steamboat *Eclipse*. Along the way, Mae will paint a picture of life in Fort Benton in the late 1800’s. Students will then produce an image of what they picture in their minds from Mae’s tales. (This program is geared toward younger groups and is offered upon the availability of “Mae”, K-3)
- **“Pieces of the Monument Puzzle”** – Students will be engaged through investigating plants, geology, animals, and cultural history within the Interpretive Center. (K-12)
- **“Migration Headache”** – This demonstrates the perils migrating waterfowl face each year. Students will face natural and man-made changes to a landscape as they strive to survive their annual journey. (K-6)
- **“Birds and Worms”** – The early bird may not find this worm. Students learn about camouflage basics in this bird-eat-worm world we live in. (K-6)
- **“Indian Stories”** – Will recount various tribal tales that still hold wisdom for our world today.
- **“Symbiotic Relationships”** – Students learn ways that different critters help each other survive, though some are only in it to benefit themselves. (4-8)

There are no fees for the programs we offer but we do request that you call well in advance of your visit to discuss programs that will be best suited to your group. Please bring at least one chaperone per ten children. I look forward to you joining us at the Missouri Breaks Interpretive Center for an enjoyable learning experience!

Sincerely,

Connie Jacobs

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